DUPONT, NECCO PARK

NEW YORK

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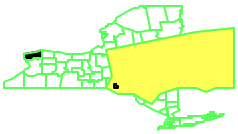

EPA REGION 2

CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 29

Niagara County

City of Niagara Falls

Site Description

DuPont, Necco Park is a 24-acre inactive industrial waste disposal site located approximately 1.5 miles north of the Niagara River in a predominately industrial area of Niagara Falls, New York. Necco Park is bounded on three sides by disposal facilities. Immediately north and east of the site lies the Newco solid waste landfill, an active Subtitle D facility owned by Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI). Immediately south of the site are three inactive hazardous waste landfill cells and a wastewater pretreatment facility owned by CECOS International, Inc. An access road and a Conrail right-of-way bounds the site to the west. Land near the site is almost exclusively zoned for commercial and industrial use with several major manufacturing facilities located within a mile of the site. The nearest residential neighborhoods are located approximately 2,000 feet to the south and 2,500 feet to the west. Necco Park was used for industrial waste disposal from the mid-1930's to 1977. During that period, the site received a number of liquid and solid wastes generated from a variety of processes operated at the nearby DuPont Niagara Plant. These wastes included: fly ash, building demolition and miscellaneous plant debris, sodium sludge waste salts, cell bath, floor sweepings, sodium cell rubble, polyvinyl acetate solids and stilling bottoms, chlorinolysis wastes, liming residues, scrap organic mixtures and off-grade product, glycol polymer scrap and refined adiponitrile wastes. Approximately 186,000,000 pounds of liquid and solid wastes were disposed of at the site. In 1977, Necco Park was identified as a possible source of groundwater contamination and disposal activities were discontinued.

Site Responsibility: The site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible party actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Non-NPL Site

Threats and Contaminants

As a result of the disposal activities, groundwater beneath and downgradient of Necco Park is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as trichloroethylene, semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs) such as hexachlorobenzene, and inorganic compounds including barium. These contaminants are present in the groundwater as aqueous phase liquids (APL, i.e., dissolves in water) and dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPL, i.e., occurs as a separate phase and does not readily dissolve in water). Soils at the site are also contaminated with VOCs and SVOCs from waste disposal activities. Contaminants have the potential to reach the Niagara River through interception of groundwater by various man-made structures such as the New York Power Authority (NYPA) conduits. Although the groundwater is contaminated, there are currently no known domestic uses of groundwater within the area, so it is unlikely that people would be directly exposed to groundwater contaminants. Necco Park has been capped and is restricted by 24-hour guard.

Cleanup Approach

A Decision Document for the Site was signed by EPA in September 1998. The first phase of the cleanup calls for complete containment of the source area using a combination of physical and hydraulic barriers and the monitoring of downgradient contaminants. Based on monitoring observations, a decision will be made as to whether or not to initiate a second phase to the remedy to address downgradient contaminants or to allow the downgradient contaminants to naturally degrade.

Response Action Status

After 1977, the potentially responsible party, DuPont, took actions to reduce migration of contaminants from the site. These included: the placement of a clay cap on the site, the installation of three groundwater extraction wells with groundwater treatment, construction of a bedrock grout curtain around three sides of the property and institution of a DNAPL collection program. DuPont has also conducted a number of investigations to determine the nature and extent of contamination, which involved the installation of over 120 soil and bedrock monitoring wells, and submitted a report to EPA analyzing various alternatives to address the contamination. In September 1998, the EPA signed the Decision Document to select the remedy for site cleanup and issued an administrative order to DuPont to carry out the remedy. EPA received notice from DuPont in October 1998 stating their willingness to comply with the administrative order.

Site Facts: In April 1985, EPA issued a RCRA 3013 Order to DuPont to perform investigations at the site. DuPont filed for judicial review in court. As a result, EPA and DuPont agreed to a Consent Decree in 1988 that specified additional investigative tasks, reporting requirements and other legal issues. Work on the Consent Decree investigations began in 1985 before the final settlement was reached. The results of these investigations are presented in the Necco Park Interpretive Report (WWC 1991). In September 1989 an

Administrative Order on Consent was signed by EPA and DuPont. This Order specified additional investigations beyond those pursuant to the 1988 Consent Decree. Descriptions of the investigations required by the Administrative Order and their results are included in the Necco Park Investigation Report, which was approved by the EPA in May 1994.

An Analysis of Alternatives (AOA) to address the contamination at Necco Park was performed by DuPont. EPA approved the AOA Report in June 1996 with comments attached as an addendum.

A Proposed Plan, selecting a preferred remedial alternative to address site contamination, was released to the public on July 22, 1996. A Public Meeting was held on August 13, 1996 to discuss the results of the Investigation and Analysis of Alternatives, to present the proposed alternative to address contamination at the site, and to receive public comments. Upon evaluation of the public comments received, EPA modified the proposed alternative and released a revised Proposed Plan, along with a Responsiveness Summary for the 1996 comment period, in February 1998. On March 12, 1998, a public meeting was held to present the modified proposed alternative and to again receive public comments. A Decision Document, which selected the remedy for site cleanup, was signed by EPA in September 1998. The remedy specifies complete containment of the source area using a combination of physical and hydraulic barriers and monitoring of downgradient contaminants. EPA will also evaluate the downgradient monitoring data to decide on whether or not to initiate a second phase to the remedy to address downgradient contaminants or to allow the contaminants to naturally degrade.

Cleanup Progress

In October 1998, DuPont notified EPA of its willingness to implement the remedy identified in the Decision Document. Accordingly, DuPont prepared a remedial design workplan to collect information necessary for effective design development and to outline the design elements, including a detailed project schedule. EPA approved the workplan in July of 2000. The workplan requires DuPont to develop two separate designs: one for upgrading the landfill cap and the other for hydraulically controlling contamination in the bedrock which underlies the site. A final design for upgrading the Site's landfill cap was approved by EPA in September 2003. In September of 2000, DuPont commenced installation of additional wells which will serve as component parts of the hydraulic containment portion of the remedy. The final design for hydraulic containment was received from DuPont in December 2003. Construction of the remedy is projected to be completed by February 2006.

Site Repository

U.S. EPA, Public Information Office, Carborundum Center, Suite 530, 345 Third Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.